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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/788,594	02/27/2004	Trung V. Le	10427US01	6829

7590 03/09/2006

Attention: Eric D. Levinson
Imation Corp.
Legal Affairs
P.O. Box 64898
St. Paul, MN 55164-0898

EXAMINER

BUI, HUNG S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2841

DATE MAILED: 03/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/788,594

Applicant(s)

LE ET AL.

Examiner

Hung S. Bui

Art Unit

2841

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 17-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 6 and 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/28/04 & 7/19/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Liu et al. [US 6567273].

Regarding claims 1-2, 5 and 7, Liu et al. disclose a memory card (figures 1-3) comprising:

- a memory card housing (figures 1-3);
- a host connector housing formed in the memory card housing (108, figures 1-3);
- a memory (122) in the memory card housing;
- a device connector (10) accessible through the memory card housing the device connector conforming to a memory card standard and allowing access to the memory by a device compatible with the memory card standard; and
- a USB host connector (102) comprising a shieldless tab extendable from the host connector housing, the host connector conforming to a host connection standard and allowing access to the memory upon insertion of the shieldless

tab extended from the host connector housing into a host computer interface compatible with the host connection standard.

Regarding claim 3, Liu et al. disclose the device connector conforms to a memory card standard such as a compact flash type I/II (column 4, lines 25-30).

Regarding claim 5, Liu et al. further disclose the host USB connector slides within the host connector housing (figure 2) to connect to a computer.

Regarding claim 7, Liu et al. disclose wherein the device connector is disposed on a first side of the memory card housing and the host connector is disposed on a second side of the memory card housing adjacent to the first side (figures 1-2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu et al. in view of Tu [US 6,808,400].

Regarding claims 8 and 10, Liu et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the host connector comprising a locking element that engages with a locking slot formed in the host connector housing to lock the shieldless tab in an extend position.

Tu discloses a USB connector (33) having at least one locking element (315) that engages with a locking slot (373) formed in a host connector housing (37) to lock the USB connector in an extended position (figure 3b).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the locking member design of Tu, in Liu et al., for the purpose of locking the USB connector fixedly with the memory card housing and preventing the host connector completely disengaging from the host connector housing when the memory card connect with a host computer.

Regarding claims 11-12, Liu et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the host connector housing including a spring.

Tu discloses the host connector housing (figure 3b) including at least one spring (39) to operate the movable/retractable USB connector within the host connector housing (figure 3b).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the spring design within the host connector housing of Liu et al., as suggested by Tu, for the purpose of providing/controlling a retractile movement of the connector within the connector housing.

5. Claims 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Liu et al. in view of Kunz et al. [US 6,542,358].

Regarding claim 13, Liu et al. disclose a memory card structure as described in claim 1. Liu et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for a dimension of the memory card.

Kunz et al. disclose a compact flash card having a length of 36mm and a width of 43mm (column 2, lines 11-12).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a standard dimension of the memory card of Liu et al., as suggested by Kunz et al., for the purpose of enabling users can be used the memory card with any kind of electrical devices such as a computer or laptop.

Regarding claims 14-15, Kunz et al. further disclose a thickness of a compact flash type I is 3.3mm (column 1, lines 59-60) and a thickness of compact flash type II is 5.0mm.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a standard thicknesses of the memory card of Liu et al., as suggested by Kunz et al., for the purpose of enabling insertion into the host computer.

Regarding claim 16, Liu et al. disclose the memory card standard from factor includes a thickness, which is less than a thickness of the shieldless tab including an electrical shield (figures 1-3).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 17-20 are allowed.

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7. Claims 4, 6, 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

8. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The cited reference fails to teach or suggest the host USB connector, which has first electrical contacts disposed on the shieldless tab and coupled to second electrical contacts disposed within the host connector housing whether the shieldless tab is extended from the host connector housing or retracted into the host connector housing. In additional reason for allow claim 9, Liu et al., as modified, fail to teach or suggest a second slot being mounted in the host connector housing to lock the host connector in retracted position in the host connector housing.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S. Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM..

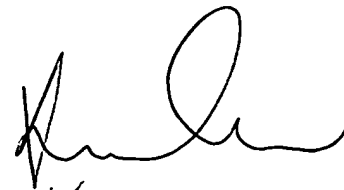
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (571) 272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

3/1/06

Hung Bui
Art Unit 2841



K. Bui
SPE 2841